

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-11

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

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AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

AMCONSUL BELIZE

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TAGS: EAGR, MX, GT

SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL MEETING ON MEAT

REF: (A) STATE 110296; (B) MEXICO 6495 (NOTAL)

1. REF A INDICATED U.S. INTEREST IN MULTILATERAL COOPERATIVE EFFORTS TO SOLVE EMERGING INTERNATIONAL MEAT TRADE PROBLEMS. SINCE THAT MESSAGE, STATE OF INTERNATIONAL LIVESTOCK AND MEAT ECONOMY HAS WORSENERED AND IMPORTING COUNTRIES HAVE TAKEN FURTHER TRADE RESTRICTIVE MEASURES (E.G., IMPORT QUOTAS ON CATTLE, BEEF AND VEAL BY CANADA).

2. AS RESULT INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT GLOBAL OUTLOOK, ESPECIALLY FOR CATTLE INDUSTRY, U.S. AND OTHER MAJOR BEEF AND VEAL TRADING COUNTRIES HAVE INDICATED PRELIMINARY ACCEPTANCE OF AUSTRALIAN PROPOSAL FOR AD HOC INTER-GOVERNMENTAL MEETING ON MEAT IN SEPTEMBER (DATE AND SITE NOT DEFINITE). GOA DESCRIBES PURPOSE OF MEETING, "TO REVIEW RECENT AND PROSPECTIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN WORLD MEAT MARKET AND CONSIDER POSSIBLE WAYS AND MEANS OF COOPERATING IN SEARCH FOR SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS IN INTERNATIONAL MEAT TRADE".

3. AUSTRALIA'S PROPOSAL ENVISAGES SENIOR OFFICIAL REPRESENTATION FROM FOLLOWING COUNTRIES: AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, EC COMMISSION (ONE DELEGATE REPRESENTING ALL EC COUNTRIES), CANADA, JAPAN, THE U.S. AND ARGENTINA. AUSTRALIA TAKES POSITION THAT REPRESENTATION MUST BE STRICTLY LIMITED IF WORTHWHILE PROGRESS IS TO BE MADE. U.S. AGREES WITH AUSTRALIA ON NECESSITY FOR SMALL MEETING BUT HAS INDICATED THAT WE FAVOR REPRESENTATION OF MEXICO AND CENTRAL AMERICA, BY ONE DELEGATE IF POSSIBLE.

4. AUSTRALIA HAS SUGGESTED NEED FOR ADDITIONAL MEETINGS AFTER SEPTEMBER. WE ARE PREPARED TO CONSIDER ADDITIONAL MEETINGS BUT NOT TO AGREE TO THEM IN ADVANCE. AT THIS TIME WE OPPOSE PROBABLE AUSTRALIAN SUGGESTION OF NEED FOR PERMANENT MEAT ORGANIZATION ANALAGOUS TO, FOR EXAMPLE, INTERNATIONAL WHEAT COUNCIL.
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5. ACTION REQUESTED: (A) FOR MEXICO AND ROCAP, GUATEMAL CITY. INFORM APPROPRIATE GOM AND SIECA OFFICIALS OF PROPOSED MEETING AND USG POSITIONS DESCRIBED ABOVE. YOU MAY INDICATE U.S. PREPARED TO URGE INCLUSION OF JOINT REPRESENTATION FROM MEXICO/CENTRAL AMERICA REGION IF THIS WOULD NOT DESTROY BASIS FOR HOLDING MEETING. WE NOTE THAT GOM HAS BEEN CONSIDERING

MEETING WITH CENTRAL AMERICANS AND OTHERS ON MEAT TRADE PROBLEMS (REF B). SEPTEMBER MEETING, IF HELD, PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY FOR JOINT MEXICAN/CENTRAL AMERICAN COOPERATION TO AMELIORATE MEAT TRADE PROBLEMS. YOU SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT WE ENVISAGE NINE EC COUNTRIES WILL BE REPRESENTED BY ONE DELEGATE AND THAT ONLY ARGENTINA INVITED FROM SOUTH AMERICA. WE, THEREFORE, STRONGLY AVERSE TO TAKING RISK THAT PRESENT PLANS FOR MEETING WILL FALL APART AND EC WITHDRAW SHOULD WE TAKE POSITION THAT MEXICO AND CENTRAL AMERICA MUST BE REPRESENTED SEPARATELY. EC ALMOST CERTAIN SEE THIS AS ATTEMPT TO WEIGHT MEETING IN FAVOR EXPORTING COUNTRIES. PROBLEM WOULD BE COMPOUNDED BY PROBABLE INSISTENCE BY OTHER COUNTRIES IN EASTERN EUROPE AND SOUTH AMERICA ON BEING INCLUDED. USG BELIEVES THAT DUE TO FACT THAT PRESSURES IN U.S. TO REDUCE MEAT IMPORTS ARISE PRIMARILY FROM EFFECTS OF TRADE RESTRICTING MEASURES IN OTHER PARTS OF WORLD (PARTICULARLY EC AND JAPAN), IT VERY MUCH IN INTEREST OF MEXICO AND CENTRAL AMERICA THAT SEPTEMBER MEETING BE HELD, EVEN IF THEY NOT REPRESENTED. ALTHOUGH WE FAVOR THEIR REPRESENTATION, OUR COMMITMENT FOR SUPPORT MUST AT THIS TIME BE CONTINGENT ON JOINT REPRESENTATION. FYI. THIS IS NOT NECESSARILY FINAL POSITION SINCE MAJOR TRADING COUNTRIES HAVE NOT REACHED FINAL AGREEMENT ON MEETING. END FYI. IF APPROPRIATE YOU MAY SUGGEST THAT MEXICO AND CENTRAL AMERICANS CONSIDER JOINT DELEGATION COMPOSED OF DELEGATE FROM ONE REGION AND ALTERNATE FROM OTHER, SO THAT BOTH WOULD BE, IN EFFECT, REPRESENTED. IF REPRESENTATION CANNOT BE WORKED OUT, U.S. WOULD, OF COURSE, BE WILLING CONSULT ON BILATERAL BASIS WITH MEXICO AND CENTRAL AMERICA BEFORE AND AFTER SEPTEMBER MEETING. WE ALSO RECOGNIZE THAT THESE COUNTRIES MAY WISH PURSUE THIS MATTER DIRECTLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITH AUSTRALIANS AND OTHER KEY PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES. (FOR ROCAP, SHOULD YOU PERCEIVE PROBLEM WITH THIS APPROACH, WE WOULD WELCOME YOUR SUGGESTIONS FOR ALTERNATIVE WHICH WOULD MAINTAIN OBJECTIVE OF KEEPING CACM ORGANIZATIONS IN FOREFRONT. NOTE THAT ATTENDANCE OF PROPOSED MEETING WILL BE AT SENIOR OFFICIAL RATHER THAN MINISTERIAL LEVEL.)

(B). FOR OTHER CENTRAL AMERICAN POSTS: YOU MAY DRAW ON THIS MESSAGE IN RESPONDING TO INQUIRIES FROM HOST GOVERNMENTS. SUGGEST THAT YOU NOT RPT NOT TAKE INITIATIVE IN RAISING SUBJECT SINCE OUR PRIMARY OBJECTIVE IS TO WORK THROUGH CACM MECHANISMS TO EXTENT POSSIBLE.

(C). FOR SANTO DOMINGO, PORT-AU-PRINCE, BELIZE. GIVEN

NEGLIGIBLE FACTOR HOST COUNTRIES IN WORLD MEAT TRADE,
IT OBVIOUSLY NOT POSSIBLE CONSIDER THEIR ATTENDANCE
SEPTEMBER MEETING. YOU MAY DRAW ON THIS MESSAGE TO KEEP
THEM INFORMED AND INDICATE U.S. WILLINGNESS CONSIDER
THEIR SUGGESTIONS FOR SOLUTION TO WORLD MEAT TRADE
PROBLEMS IN PREPARATION SEPTEMBER MEETING. KISSINGER

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